

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND
CORRECTIONAL SERVICES**

**MARYLAND COMMISSION ON
CORRECTIONAL STANDARDS**



**THE STANDARDS
MANUAL**

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This Manual has been developed to assist correctional managing officials in meeting standards. The changes to the style of the manual were made to make it more reader friendly and perhaps increase its use. The Commission and staff take great pride in the revised standards and the improved look of the manual.

The standards for Adult Correctional Institutions (ACI) and Adult Community Correctional Facilities (ACCF) have been revised for codification in COMAR. The standards for these two categories have been updated to be more specific and quantitative and are similar to the changes made in 1991 to the Adult Detention Center's (ADC) regulations. A listing of **Definitions** precedes the standards for ADC, ACI and ACCF. These definitions are meant to clarify terminology in an effort to minimize problems with standards interpretation. The **Compliance Criteria** and **Explanations** will assist you in understanding the intent of the standards and suggest methods to meet them. The new numbering system should prove to be of assistance.

Beginning in 2019, the Commission began a review of the manual to ensure that its contents were in accordance with COMAR regulations and legislation. The Commission's mission was to review and revise standards in which the adopted regulations were amended from 2001 through 2019. Specifically, Standards .04 Inmate Housing and Sanitation and .08 Administrative Record Keeping were amended to incorporate the applicable 2017 and 2019 COMAR regulations. Additionally, new definitions were added to the **Definitions** section of the manual, which also, includes language from the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). The Post Audit Activities subsection, of the **Audit Process**, was modified to clarify current procedures. This review process concluded in 2020. The results are the improvement of Standards Manuals that are comprehensive and provide a resource regarding the State of Maryland regulations for places of adult confinement.

The **Audit Process** section, as well as, the **How To Prepare For An Audit** section, should be reviewed by the management and facility staff. The **Reference** section provides legislative information regarding the Commission Members and staff, the method of establishing standards and ensuring compliance with these standards. Additionally, the listing of Commission Members and Staff are provided in the Standards Manual. As a resource, the Standards Manual is a valuable tool for management and staff and provides guidance regarding compliance with the standards, in accordance with COMAR legislation.